

# IN THE BEGINNING



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Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
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## IN THE BEGINNING

Vol.19-No.73

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Lester A. Harding, Editor

Editors Notes — ☐

We had no idea of keeping "IN THE BEGINNING" going into another year, but we had so much material on hand and available that we are trying to put these issues together as much as possible so far ahead of time with the expectation of getting the 1986 issues together.

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We still have several hard-bound books of "IN THE BEGINNING" on hand. Each one of these well bound books have two years (eight issues). This one has the years of 1894 and 1895. (Volumes, 17 and 18). Anyone who may have the 8 issues for those two years may trade them in or they can be purchased without any trade in.

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Once again it is time to pay subscriptions to "IN THE BEGINNING". Several have paid up, but we know many are waiting for a reminder. It is still marked at \$4.00 a year, and will be that for 1986.

We have been marking the ones that have not paid with the red mark in a red box like above. There are a few that say they never saw it, even after we mark it in 2 or 3 issues.

The postage on each one we send is .39 cents each, with a five cent envelope. We mail out around 250 issues each four months.

We are not planning on going past 1986. If a person had the will and ambition to look for it there would be material in county records and other to last for many years more.

When we started the first issues it was sort of a challenge but after 18 years it is getting to be more of a struggle.

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The cover picture — Oh yes?? Thats what the editor looked like 80 years ago.

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Woodson County Historical Society

Yates Center, Kansas

\$4.00 per year

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Organized March, 1965

The membership of the Woodson County Historical Society seems to stay on an even keel, around the 500 mark.

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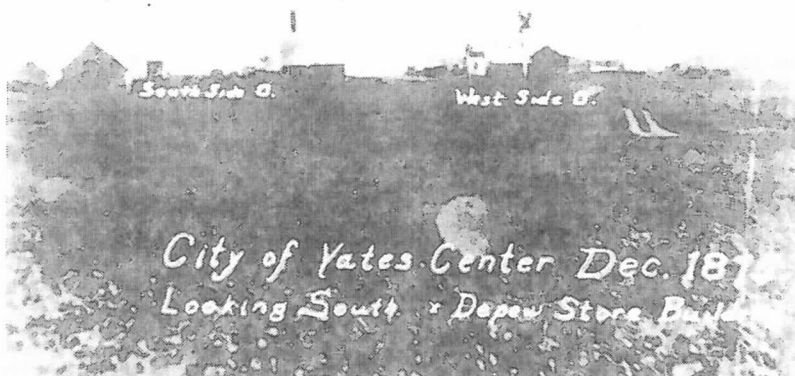
The regular meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held Tuesday evening, December 23, 1985. There were over 50 present for the dinner.

The program was given by Kenneth and Barbara Stockebrand, showing colored slides of interesting sights that they saw in a trip across Northeastern states and in to different provinces of Canada, including Nova Scotia and into Newfoundland. Kenneth and Barbara take several weeks on these trips and stop at many interesting places.

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At the passing of J.C. (Jim) Schnell, a Memorial was established with the Woodson County Historical Society, of which he was an active member.

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This is no doubt one of the first pictures taken of Yates Center. It looks like it could have been taken on Sanderson between Main and State streets. The X marks where the J. W. Depew general store was located. The mark 1 is the tall narrow building put there by Abner Yates, on the south side of the square.

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Join and support the  
WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.  
Life Membership \$25.00      Regular Membership \$2.00 a year

## ALEXANDER STEWART —

Alexander led quite a life as a teacher, soldier and lawyer. He was born in Marietta, Ohio. His parents were Alexander and Irena Stewart. His mother died while he was still in the cradle and his father soon after. His birthday was August 4, 1825. Being raised by relatives he soon began to move around. He started teaching school at Monmouth, Indiana when he was 17 years old. He continued to teach school and study law in spare time.

Mr. Stewart came to Kansas in spring of 1857, living a year in Franklin County. Then in April, 1858, he came to Allen County at Iola, where he practiced law and taught the first school ever taught in Iola. He was also the first man to move onto the townsite of Iola.

During the Great Drought of 1860, a man named Bostick went back East to solicit aid for the people of Allen County. A large amount of aid which was shipped in Spring of 1861 as far as Sedalia, Mo., the terminus of the railroad, and was held there by Rebel forces. Alex Stewart with nine ox teams and drivers went to Sedalia, procured the goods and under pretence of taking them to the Rebels at Ball's Mill near the Kansas, Missouri state line, they drove on through to Iola.

He moved to LeRoy in fall of 1863, where he practiced law. In this year he went back to Indiana where he was married to Miss Rebecca Patterson in Jay Co., Indiana. She was a native of Kentucky. Rebecca died in February, 1864. And in January, 1865, he was married to S. J. Valeto. They had three daughters, Cora, Nellie and Eva.

During the Civil War he recruited the Iola Battalion for the 9th Kansas Regiment Volunteer Cavalry, and saw border service, during a three months enlistment. He was then commissioned Recruiting Officer and organized an Artillery company for the same regiment and was commissioned Captain and served four months. Gen. Hunter superseded James Lane of this company, Stewart and his company dropped out of service having enlisted under the condition that it would serve under no other commander than Gen. Lane.

Alex Stewart was one of several men from Neosho Falls that went to LeRoy during a night in 1868 with a team and wagon and loaded up a printing press in the darkness, because of a quarrell over the press between people at LeRoy and Neosho Falls. In 1869 this became the first newspaper in Woodson County, after quite a long lawsuit.

In March, 1878, Alex Stewart and family moved to Yates Center where he still practiced law.

## HISTORY OF MOUND VALLEY, SCHOOL DIST. #, JT.21 —

Mound Valley School was evidently named after the many hills and valleys found in the surrounding territory.

The first school in this district was held in a small one-room frame building about a mile east of the school house as people remember it. Near the Woodson - Allen County line, about the year 1870. The first school is said to be taught by Millissa Dee., but there is no record of that.

The first written record, records Mary Berger as teacher, during May, June and July during the term of the year 1871, with the following pupils enrolled. Anna Dee, Laura and George Dee, Liddy Tolan, Louise Abilegan, Letha Dana, Hiram and Lewis Norris (Nourse), Lily Kuhnrod, Nelson Sharp, James Kuhnrod, Jeramia Dee, John and Daniel Sharp, Win Dee, Catherine McKay.

Other teachers recorded in this register were, Lemira Dickinson, George Quackenbos, Laura M. Crabb, L. M. Olden, Scott V. Irvin and Emma Nourse.

George Quackenbos was an outstanding early day school master from Chicago, who helped start an academy that was some say for girls and another said for boys. The Quackenbos family built a large two story house on what was called Quackenbos Hill.

The Mound Valley Schoolhouse was built a mile west of the Allen County line and a mile and half north of the Wilson Co. line. Text books used during this second term were; McGuffey Readers, McGuffey Speller, McGuffey Orthography, Pinner English Grammer, Ray and Thompson Arithmetic, Montieith Primary Geography.

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Ira Nourse, one of the first settlers in the Scatter Creek and Mound Valley area spent almost four years in a border division of the Union Army in Eastern Kansas and the Indian Territory. At the close of the Civil War he was appointed by the U. S. Government to help hunt up and restore to the owners of cattle and horses that had been driven off by other bands of Indians attached to the Confederate Army.

Two of his wartime Indian friends, Jackson Barnett and Billie Brown, sent their boys of the same name to stay at Ira Nourse's home on Scatter Creek and go to school at the Mound Valley School. There seemed to be no school where they lived at that time. This was in 1873. They were Creek Indians.

Jackson became a wealthy Indiana, and became much in the news later as he married a white woman. He lived at Henrietta, Okla.

In the teachers report starting term, Melba Frevert was the teacher. Pupils attending that term were, Jewell Cooper, Billie Sellars, Wayne Young, Floyd Ladd, Phillip Cooper, Eleanore Sellars, Eugene Soloman, Eugene and Otto Gurwell, Warren Ladd.

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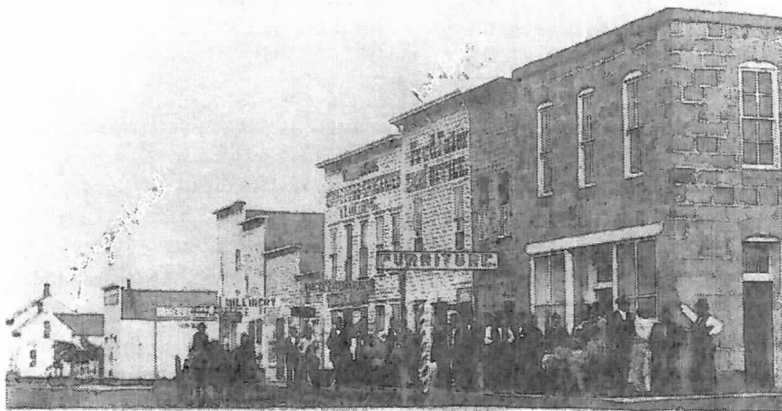
#### THE FRIDERICH GOTTLIEB LANGE FAMILY —

F. G. Lange was born in Hoen Siatz, Prussia, Nov. 19, 1828. He served three years in the German Army, as aid to the Burgomaster of his regiment. He came to America in 1850, and going to the state of Iowa.

When the Civil War broke out in the United States, F. G. enlisted in 1862, in the First Iowa Calvary Volunteers, and served to the end of the war.

We do not know just when Mr. Lange came to Kansas, but the next we find him he was operating a small hotel in the newly organized town of Kalida, that was making a strong bid to become the county seat of Woodson County. Lange like the other merchants in the small town setting out on the prairie prospered for a while, but the county seat was taken away from the little town.

F. G. Lange soon had no more use for his hotel that he had named the "Iowa House." (In one article it was given as the "Iola House.") The name of Iowa evidently came from his first years living in the state of Iowa. As the town was moving to better business, Kalida was moving to Yates Center.



**South Side of Square, 1880, Yates Center, KS**



Mr. Lange sold his narrow two-story building to Abner Yates, who in turn had it moved to the newly surveyed town of Yates Center. It was located on the southwest part of the square . And for several years it was used not only for county business but religious services and all public gatherings. This building was the first in Yates Center.

The first hotel was moved from Kalida by C. W. Wilson. It was soon purchased by F. G. Lange who enlarged it some. It was known as the Centrel Hotel. This hotel stood on the southeast corner of the square, where the large brick and rock building was built by the Stockebands and Kemmers, and later known as the Light Hardware building.



**Friderich Gottlieb Lange**

F. G. Lange one of the oldest and well known citizens of Woodson County died April 14, 1902 at the residence of his son Fred in Neosho Falls, after an illness of several weeks, at the age of 73 years.

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F. G. Lange was married twice. His first marriage was to Maria Schmidt, on May 4, 1854. They had three children, two born in Prussia. They were Oskar, born, Jan. 26, 1857. Agnes, born on April 22, 1859, died June 22, 1940 and is buried in the Yates Center Cemetery, as is Awalt Lange who was born in Independence, Iowa. On Dec. 3, 1861, and died Aug. 1941. F. G. Lange's first wife died Nov. 10, 1866 and is buried at Independence, Iowa.

Mr. Lange's second wife was Catherine Wilson (known as Catey or Katie). She was born on Oct. 4, 1843 at Richmond, Ohio. They had two children, Frederick Burto Lange, born Mar. 30, 1874, at Kalida, Kansas, and died on June 21, 1962 in Kansas City, MO. Alice Lange was born Nov. 16, 1879, at Yates Center.

F. G. Lange went to Neosho Falls to visit his son Fred Lange, who was the Santa Fe depot agent at that time. He passed away April 14, 1902.

He was the father of five children, Oscar, Fred, Awalt, Agnes (Marr) and Alice (Steinhouse). He is buried in Yates Center.

(This item was taken from the Yates Center News of June 9, 1881.) Lange has put in a fine porch on the west and north sides of the Central Hotel.



Awalt Lange and his four-footed friend, who lived in a small house to the west of the old depot that was torn down.

As mentioned, Fred Lange was the Santa Fe depot agent at Neosho Falls. Fred married Julia May Brewer on July 1, 1900.

They were the parents of a daughter, Edna May, was born Oct. 6, 1901, in Neosho Falls. She married a man named Anderson. They had a son Charles F. Anderson who lives in Merriam, Kansas and helped us get this story together.

Edna May Lange Anderson died April 20, 1944, at the age of 42 years. She with her mother Julia May are both buried in Kansas City, MO.



## THE THURSTON K. WELLS FAMILY —

Thurston K. Wells was born Feb. 26, 1821 in Sullivan, New York. His parents were Ozias and Mary Kennedy Wells. Thurston spent his early life in Michigan and Iowa. He was a log sealer or woodsman and injured his knee with an ax and he was unable to serve in the Civil War.

Thurston was married twice. He was married first Mar. 20, 1861 in Van Buren, N. Y., but his first wife's name is not known. They had 2 sons, Francis Owen Wells and William Hall Wells, both being born in N. Y. State.

After the death of his first wife Thurston evidently went to the state of Michigan. He was married to Salone Crandall. Their first three children, Freddie L., Mary A., Anna M. Wells were born in Michigan, but their youngest daughter was born in Woodson County, KS., Feb. 5, 1873.

Thurston K. Wells and family must have came to Woodson County about 1871. He took a claim of 80 acres of land from the State of Kansas, in the north half of the N. E. quarter of Sec. 22, Twp. 24, Range 15. This would be five miles north of Yates Center and on west side. Here Thurston probably with the help of his son Francis O. Wells. They had worked together in the timber in Iowa before coming to Kansas, where Francis helped build the railroad from Neosho Falls to Yates Center.

Thurston Wells received the Patent for his 80 A. of school land Aug. 15, 1876, when he fulfilled his five years of living there in their cabin. Thurston died June 3, 1893.

We will take up the families of Thurston and later the families of Francis O.

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William Hall Wells, born in Sullivan, N. Y. He was married Aug. 7, 1881 to Elizebeth Black. Their children were, N. C. Clay, Dollie Wells (Beaver), Frank Wells, Mary Wells (Married C. J. Peak), Jesse and Clark Wells.

—1— Anna M. Wells, married Mar. 27, 1885, to Fred Mentzer, their children were, Hazel who married Ed. Herold; Cecil married Emil Beine. Pearl married Paul Peterson, Marjorie married Paul Weide. Fred, who married Clara Beine; Harley married Winifred McCormick; Mildred married John Van Valkenburg; Aleta married Wendall Tolle.

—2— Nettie A. Wells married Charles O. Mentzer, their children were, Gladys who married Roy Green; Leslie who married Vesta Danielson; Paul married Ada Saferite, Pauline married Osman Briles, Hervert married Ruth Kitterman.



## FRANCIS OWEN WELLS —

Francis O. Wells was born Feb. 23, 1853, at Oneida, New York. He was the oldest son of Thurston Wells.

He was married 8-9-1876 in Woodson County to Emma Steach. Their children were, Pearlie L., Clinton Ery, Etta May and Archie.

—1— Pearlie L. was born 2-17-18, in Coffey Co. She was married to Albert Meyers.

—2— Clinton Ery Wells, was born Mar. 10, 1883, in Woodson County. On February 25, 1903 was married to Miss Odessa Martin. After their marriage they moved to near Eureka. They were the parents of twelve children, seven of these being born in Greenwood County. There were six boys and six girls in this family. They were Owen Clinton, born 4-6-1905; He married Tillie Streuch; Gladys Pearl, born 1-21-1907. She was married to Lester Crane; Frances Martin (Frank) born 7-1-1909; Married Sadie Quinn. Elmer E. born 6-9-1911. Married Lucille Defever, Emma Alice, born 11-2-1913. Married Dwayne Stover; Ralph Wells born 11-11-1915. Died 11-18-1915; Floyd Edgar, born 9-22-1917, married Esther Cochran, Clara Mae, born 11-7-1919, Married Ralph Weide; Lee Wells, born 7-15-1922, married Carrie Slough. Lee died of cancer 1-18-1975. Lela twin of Lee, born 7-15-1922, married Jack Kress; Oleta Marie, born 9-21-1924; married Ralph Huston; Wilma Louise, born 1-23-1927. Married O'Neil Smith.

\* \* \* \* \*

Francis Owen Wells evidently did some farming the first years of his married life, then decided to obtain land of his own around 1880, he became interested in some school land, land given to the State of Kansas. The State of Kansas in turn sold the land at a small price, but the buyer had to keep certain agreements to get the Patent or deed for the farm. The new owners of the land had to build a cabin and live on the farm at least most of the time for five years. These two 80 acre parcels of land cost F. O. Wells \$6.00 an acre for the raw prairie land. This land that was the homestead of F. O. Wells has been in Wells' name for over a hundred years, with the fourth and fifth generations living on the farm. First was Frances O., then his son Clinton, then a grandson Lee Wells, then a great-grandson Ron and then great-great-grandsons Jimmie and Terry Wells.

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Picture on opposite page is the family of Clinton Wells and wife Odessa. Left to right back row. Lela, Lee, Emma, Elmer, Frank, Floyd, Oleta, Wilma. Seated Clara, Owen, Odessa and Clinton, and Gladys. This picture was taken Feb. 1953 on the Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary of Clinton and Odessa.

## **ARCHIE WELLS —**

Archie Wells was born in Woodson County, May 14, 1888. He was a son of Francis O. and Emma Steach Wells, on the old home place in the northwest part of the county. Here he grew up and spent his entire life farming.

On November 26, 1911, Archie was married to Miss Mary Jane Mulsow. They were the parents of seven children, Murnice Ethel, Myrtle Iris, Lyla, Leila, Clela, Roy Eugene, and Vanessa. Leila, Clela and Roy Eugene all died as infants.

Murnice Ethel married Hadley Stranghoner.

Myrtle Iris married Phillip Brodmerkle.

Lyla married Robert Oswald.

Vanessa married Ted Gould.

Archie, his wife Mary Jane, three infants, his mother Emma and sister Etta are all buried in the Askren Cemetery.

After the death of Mary Jane Archie again married. Sept. 4, 1958 to Jennie Walker Chambers. Jennie had a daughter, Winona.



## **The Archie Wells Family —**

**Back row left to right - Myrtle Iris, Lila V., Murnice E. Seated - Mary Jane and Archie with Vanessa between them.**



**Amanda Terrell Ryan**

Amanda Terrell was born on the Terrell homestead along the south side of upper Duck Creek in 1870. Her parents were Mathew and Isabel Terrell. The mother Isabel died during the birth of her ninth child, Amanda. Isabel was the first woman to be buried in the Askren Cemetery. It is believed that Mathew Terrell and David Askren were friends back in Logan County, Ohio, both were born and grew up, and were about the same age. Askren coming here in 1858 and Mathew Terrell coming in 1868, after serving in the Civil War.

At the time Amanda was born she had a brother Isaac Terrell, who was just a year old.

In 1874, Mathew Terrell was again married to Louise Shelton. They were the parents of two children. Louise died at the birth of second child. This was in 1877. Louise was also buried in the Askren Cemetery. After the death of his second wife Mathew decided to leave the homestead. The children went to live with different families.

Amanda and Isaac went to live with the family of David and Charlotte Askren. Amanda was about 8 years old and Isaac 9.

Isaac and Amanda stayed at the Askren home for some time. Isaac staying at different homes until getting married to Nettie Chapman. They raised a large family and spent most of their married life in Woodson County.

Amanda evidently went to the home of an older sister for a while. She was married to John Ryan, who was a horse trader. She spent part of her life traveling with her husband in a covered wagon, as her husband did his horse trading.

John Ryan, a son of John and Amanda Ryan gave us this picture of his mother. He lives at Coquille, Oregon.

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#### NEOSHO FALLS HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT \* 1933 —

Commencement program of Neosho Falls High School at Memorial Hall Wednesday, May 24, 8 p.m.

Processional . . . . . Invocation . . . . . Rev. Otis Bussart.  
Song . . . . . Girls Sextette Salutatory . . . . . Alice Tidd.  
Piano Duet . . . . . Beulah Murry and Irene Salsbury.  
"Our Debts" . . . . . Dwight Cochran  
"Choosing a Vocation" . . . . . John Trout  
"Our Opportunities" . . . . . Elwyn Saferite  
Songs . . . . . Boys Quartette  
"Character Training" . . . . . Velma Trout  
Valedictory . . . . . Irene Salsbury  
Presentation of Diploma's . . . . . W. D. Tidd  
Song . . . . . Girls Trio  
Benediction . . . . . Rev. Otis Bussart

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The Commencement exercises at Memorial Hall last Wednesday evening for the High School were given to a house filled to capacity. There were 23 graduates in the class, the largest in the history of the school. Each pupil who took part in the program gave credit to his teaching. The diplomas were presented by W. D. Tidd, in a few words which sound and wholesome advice was given. The class flower was the "Pansy". Their motto was "DIG". The program was under the supervision of the teachers.

The Superintendent C. A. Gordon, being absent. The Processional was rendered by Raymond Harper of Pinckneyville, Ill. who was a guest of Miss Ruth Harper, music teacher.



## SOME SOCIETY NOTES TAKEN FROM YATES CENTER NEWS Sept. 20, 1912 —

The third annual meeting of the First Families of Yates Center met for their picnic supper at the Lewis building. Sept. 26, 1912. After all had feasted on the good things to eat provided by the ladies, the house was called to order by Mr. (Walter) Depew and we were asked to imagine ourselves in the little stone schoolhouse 30 years ago. Minutes of the last Yates Center Literary Society dated Sept. 26, 1882 were read by the secretary, Clara Wharton were as follows: "House was called to order by President J. N. Richardson. The first number being a song by Ella Chellis, Aggie Hurt and Hancie Naylor. This was followed by a spelling match. Dick Trueblood and Myron Rhea choose up sides.

Effie Chellis and Carrie Baxter being chosen as trappers. After looking for hard words through the spelling book and dictionary Myron's side was declared to be the victors by one word. Mrs. Holloway then read a selection on "The Training of Girls". Harve Johnson, Gussie and Aggie Hurt sang "O! dem Golden Slippers".

The debate was then announced. Question — "Resolved that a protective tariff is necessary to the prosperity of the country." Henry Trueblood and Mrs. Jewett, were for the affirmative and Harve Johnson and Mrs. Carpenter for the negative. Judges Pres. Taylor, Mr. Newhouse and Mrs. Chellis decided for the negative. Little Mollie Chellis covered herself with glory by singing "Babes In the Woods". Charles Trueblood recited, "The Boy Stood on the Burneung Deck", Mrs. Dryden and Mrs. Depew sang a duet. Mrs. West sang "Bide a Wee". A recitation by Aggie Hurt "Curfew shall not Ring Tonight". Recitation by Fred Stephenson, "Asleep at the Switch." The Society paper was read by the editor, Dr. West. The solo by Chas. Harris as well as the violin music by Mort Bacon was enjoyed by all. The meeting closed by singing America. Clara Wharton, Secretary.

The reading of these minutes of thirty years ago was followed by the Yates Center Popular Weekly by Mrs. Van Vonooris, of news of people and affairs of 30 years ago. America was then sang by all, led by Miss Chellis. The debate followed, "Resolved that the citizens living here thirty years ago were happier than at the present time." Charles Landis and George Withers affirmative, and Fay Wharton and Frank Hogueland negative. Each one handled their subject very well. Frank Butler and Joel Wilder decided in favor of the affirmative. This was followed by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

## Odde and Ends

WOODSON CO. ADVOCATE - Yates Center, June 21, 1912 —

Roy Mertz went to Kansas City last weekend and drove back a new Reo Car. The car goes to J. C. Cantrell of Vernon. Patterson and Patterson sold Ernest Stockebrand a Buick last week.  
JUNE 28, 1912

Mr. A. Stanley Scott and Miss Orla Anna Canady were united in marriage, Thursday evening at the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Canady, A. L. Ragsdale officiating. The groom is the son of C. C. Scott.

Augusta Pribbernow was born in Meso Pomerania, Germany, Oct. 9, 1847 and passed away at her home near Yates Center, Kans., June 22, 1912. In 1867 she came with her parents to America and located in Owl Creek Twp., where she lived until her marriage to Wm. Stange, June 12, 1868, who preceded her in death, Feb. 8, 1910. To this union four children were born, two died in infancy. She became a Christian early in life when the Evangelical Church was first established in her community. She leaves to mourn her loss, two sons, William C. and H. Carl; one grandchild, two brothers and three sisters, all of whom attended the funeral services at the home Monday, June 22, 1912, conducted by her pastor Rev. F. H. Daegger. She was buried beside her husband in the Lutheran Cemetery.

Mrs. Prutzman, whose maiden name was Margaret W. McClintock, was born in Adams Co., Ill., October 4, 1847 and passed away at her home in Vernon, Kans., June 10, 1912. On June 10th, 1867 she was united in marriage to John B. Prutzman. To this union were born eight children, five of whom are living. In the fall of 1867, Mrs. Prutzman came with her husband to Woodson Co., and settled in Everett township. They have resided in this township ever since. Funeral services were held at Vernon, June 12, conducted by her pastor, Rev. C. T. Cotton. Burial in Neosho Falls Cemetery.

E. E. KELLY - Toronto Republican —

Tom LaRue told me the other day of the queerest thing I ever heard of. "Years and years ago long before my time, there was a man lived in Toronto whose name was Hunsaker. A child in the family died. Tom helped bury the child, the burial taking place in the old Pleasant Grove Cemetery. There were no flowers, but someone had a big apple and apples were scarce and therefore precious. So the big apple was placed in the coffin with the child and his little hands folded over it on his breast and the little child was buried so. A couple of years

## Odds and Ends

thereafter the family had the body moved to the new graveyard, and Tom helped move the body. They opened the coffin and Tom declares that the apple was still fresh and sound looking as it was when it was put away with the child two years before. Now I never heard of anything like that and say I never heard of anything so queer."

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### TORONTO BAND - June 7, 1884 —

W. P. Dickerson, Leader - e Flat Coronet

S. R. Kellogg - b Flat Coronet

A. L. Eaton - 1st alto

Arthur Webb - 2nd alto

W. P. Lockard - 1st tenor

C. H. Stewart - Bass drum and cymbals

Jas. R. Thompson - Baritone

W. C. Willie - Tuba

Joe Aafterbaugh - Snare drum

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### WOODSON COUNTY ADVOCATE - July 1912

#### TRAIN WRECK —

East bound passenger, No. 410, due to leave Yates Center at 6:35 p.m., left the track at the Cherry Creek Bridge (five miles east and one and three quarters north) Tuesday and a heavy loss of life was narrowly averted. The train was about thirty minutes late, but it was reported that they were running about their regular speed when the wreck occurred. As they approached the bridge, the tender jumped the track, breaking loose from the engine. It went over the embankment carrying with it the baggage and mail car, express car and smoker, the chair car hanging on a balance over the embankment, the sleeper and engine only remaining on the track.

Several persons were injured, but none fatally. The three who received serious injuries were Mr. Faxon, the mail clerk, collar bone broken and bruised; Mr. Filson a banker of Chanute, many cuts and bruises; Mr. Burris, a real estate man, of Chanute, ribs broken; traveling man name unknown, leg broken. Several others received minor injuries. All of the passengers of two coaches were badly shaken up.

This same engine whose tender jumped the track at the same place carrying 409 in the morning.

The switch engine came to Yates Center and got the coaches of the Rich Hill passengers and took physicians and helpers from here to care for the injured.

## OWL CREEK AND IT'S TRIBUTARIES—

The watershed that drains perhaps two-thirds of the water that falls on Woodson County, is Owl Creek and it's tributaries. The main creek or West Owl as it is called goes to within about four miles of the Greenwood County line, and as the crow flies it would be about 21 miles to where the main Owl enters Allen County and then on to the Neosho River, below Humboldt. It would be hard to conclude just how many miles one would cover if he would follow the windings of the different creeks that make up the watershed of Owl Creek. We will take up the North, West and South branches of this creek first.

The North Owl Creek breaks away from the main Owl just before the two creeks cross the road a couple miles north of the east side of Yates Center, where the two creek bridges are a short distance apart. North Owl has many branches and streams feeding into it and is the right or north branch of main Owl. The farthest west of these branches, as it passes through section 19, Twp. 24, R. 15, the creek runs along the north side of some large rocks that outcrop close to the stream. Among these rocks is what is known as Coopers Cave. For many years this cave was a popular picnic and recreation place for the people in that surrounding vicinity, including Yates Center. On the east branch of the three larger branches at the head of North Owl where it goes through section 21, there is a pioneer grave, with a crude sandstone marker with the inscription - Wm. H. Ewing - Born 1840. Died March 15, 1862. This marker is still readable. E. J. Gordon, who owns this land has placed a steel pipe frame around the grave.

Two miles north and two west of Yates Center a stream comes in from the northwest where it crosses the road. This stream has been called Spring Branch. It enters Owl Creek in section 3, Twp. 25, R. 14. Where it makes a sharp bend forming a peninsula as it enters the larger creek is another pioneer grave. This is the grave of Rebecca Mitchell and her twin babies who died along with her at the time of their birth. This was in May, 1868. Mitchell put a rail fence around the grave of his wife and twins. This has been gone many years. Again E. J. Gordon did a good deed as he placed a welded pipe protection around this grave.

The part of Owl Creek that reachest the farthest to the west is referred to as West Owl. We do not know just where West Owl might start and stop. Just below where North Owl branches away from the Main Owl is a small creek that runs

mostly north. In an old commissioners record this creek is called School Creek. Perhaps the name comes from the fact that the stream starts somewhere in the vicinity of the old Clear Springs Schoolhouse. Several years ago Louis Toedman lived along this creek almost in the center of section 24, Twp. 24, R.15, told us that at one time it was called Squirrel Creek. When he first remembered the creek there were very few trees on the upper part. He told that squirrels helped spread the walnut trees along the creek. At the present time a large detention or flood prevention dam is in the process of being built, along this creek, and is known as the Goebel-Stockebrand project. It will be about a half mile north of these two homes.

About two miles east of Yates Center along the south side of US-54, is the headwaters of a small stream that is called locally Badger Creek. It empties into main Owl Creek about four miles to the southeast from its beginning. The branch of Badger along the highway is close to where Owl makes a bend to the east, and in highwater time Owl Creek overflows into Badger and follows the stream back into Owl, overflowing the area in between.

South Owl Creek is a long and good-sized creek in itself, gathering water from probably 20,000 acres of land starting just to the west and south of Yates Center and empties into main Owl where almost a bottle neck forms. The headwaters of South Owl form the water for the Yates Center City Reservoir. The dam for this reservoir was built in 1905. This was an earthen dam, with the spillway covered with about an eight-inch thick slab of cement on the front side, going over the top and down the back side.

During the very wet season of 1915 the large amount of water going over the spillway ate and eroded away the dirt beneath the cement slab, and caused the entire spillway to give away with a wall of water going down South Owl, flooding a large area. Around eight or ten miles down stream at the Eldon Kee farm the water reached a higher level than it has since that year.

We mentioned the bottle neck of Owl Creek. That is the area also known as the "flood plains", where the main Owl with the water from North and West Owls, Cherry and Plum Creeks, and South Owl all come together in about a quarter mile of each other about on section line between sections 30 and 19, Twp. 25, R. 17, about three miles from the east county line. With heavy rains in the different parts of the county and this water all converges can cause much flooding on lower Owl, with much of the water backing up the different creeks.

One shcoolhouse, two churches and two cemeteries were either named Owl Creek or called that, that name was used to better describe them. The school was Owl Creek School, Dist. No. 5, or perhaps better known as the Stonepile.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, was also known as the Owl Creek Catholic Church. This church was first established in 1869, although Mass was held in nearby homes before that time. The first religious service held in that community was in the home of Johanna and son Michael Collins, in 1858.

Mrs. Johanna Collins and Michael lived in a log cabin overlooking the valley where Plum Creek enters Cherry Creek.

The Owl Creek Catholic Cemetery is located at the site of the St. Mary's Church.

About three quarter mile to the west of this church and cemetery was the Lutheran Church, also known as the Owl Creek Church. Just to the south and across the road from where this church was located is the Owl Creek Cemetery, that was associated with the Lutheran Church. While both of these churches have been gone for several years, the two cemeteries are still being used as burying places.

There are no doubt many interesting stories and places along Owl Creek that we may hear of later, but for now we will leave Owl Creek and move on farther south.

### Odds and Ends

May 16, 1884 - Brick Plant —

R. Sievert and C. C. Mills have opened a brick yard on east side of town and have already moulded several thousand brick which seem to stand the drying process to a very satisfactory manner. We understand they will be used on the fronts of the Mills and Skinner, Ashley building south of the square.

\* \* \* \* \*

The coal company has been formed with W. W. Winter as President; J. B. Fry, Vice-Pres.; J. W. Lewis, Treas.; W. A. Slavens, Corresponding Secretary; J. P. Bell, Secretary. It has not been decided where they will commence prospecting, but will probably be near head of Sandy, about 3 miles west of town.

\* \* \* \* \*

Spring of 1860, there were eleven houses at Belmont each with a family living there. Eight or ten more with in a mile. Following the drought of 1860, I. Landes traded a wagon for a farm near Belmont.



August H. and Caroline Louise Beine were parents of nine children, namely, August G., Mathilda (Tillie), Fred, Emil, Henry, Louis, Mary, Walter, and Clara.

—1— August G. (Augie) was born, Feb. 17, 1886. He was married to Lillie Weide. They were parents of three children, Alice who married Irvin Tipron. Marvin who married Geraldine Wilson and Lorraine who never married. She was born in 1919 and died in 1970.

—2— Matilda married Bruno Miller. They had two children, Thomas and Mildred. Mildred married a Callison. The mother of John Henry Lauber died at his birth, Matilda and Bruno Miller took him and raised him as their own. After the death of Bruno, Matilda married his brother Fritz.

—3— Fred was born Jan. 21, 1892. Fred was married to Maynie Irvin. They had no children. Fred passed away in 1962.

—4— Emil F. was born Feb. 26, 1894. He was married to Cecile Mentzer April 8, 1923. They were parents of four children, Norma, born 3-25-1924. She lived just 5 days. Norman, born 6-13-26. He was married to Bessie Wilaby and Barbara Stewart. Doria Margaret, born Dec. 20, 1929. She was married to Lauren Ryan. They had three sons, Gary, Kenneth and Steve. A son Maynard was also born to Emil and Cecile, born 12-20-1933 and died the same day.

—5— Henry Beine was married to Rose Schroeder. Their children were; Ethel, Betty, Henry Jr., and Millie. Henry is the only one of the Beine boys living, and lives in North Dakota where he has farmed for quite a few years.

—6— Louis was born June 3, 1898, at Yates Center, Kans. He was married in 1925 to Ruth Schroeder, a cousin of the Ruth mentioned above. Their three sons were James, Keith and Dale.

—7— Mary was born near Yates Center, and died as a small girl of about six years of age.

—8— Walter John was born on the Beine farm about two miles west of Yates Center, April 28, 1901. In 1936 he was united in marriage to Jeanette Trusler and they were the parents of three daughters, Anne Elizebeth, Melba Jean and Caryl Louise. Walter was manager of then owner of the Yates Center Elevator for 33 years.

—9— Clara the youngest of the family was born Sept. 16, 1908. On June 19, 1932 she was married to Fred Mentzer. They made their home in California. Their children were; Melba and Kenneth.

August H. and Caroline Beine celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, October 18, 1945 at their home in Yates Center.

## **THE AUGUST HENRY BEINE FAMILY —**

August H. Beine was born October 8, 1856 in Lippe Germany, and died April 17, 1957, age 100 years.

August H. served his years in the Kaiser's Military Army, before he married.

August H. Beine was married October 12, 1884, in the Reformation Church, to Miss Caroline Louise Berman. Caroline was born in Detmold Germany, Nov. 1, 1861.

August H. had served his time in the compulsory military and decided that he didn't want his sons to have to go through that, so they decided to bring their family to America.

They arrived in America May 25, 1886, with their young son August Jr. who was about a year old. Also coming with them was a brother of August H., Fritz Beine.

The Beine's first settled near Leavenworth, Kansas. Fritz and August both obtained work in a brick factory in Wichita, Kans., commuting by train to Leavenworth on weekends.

After two years August H. and Caroline moved to Woodson County and to a farm about two miles west and south of Yates Center. Here the most of their children were born and grew up. They moved to North Dakota March 1, 1917, and moved back March 1, 1925. All except Louis and Henry.



**Picture taken of August Beine, on his 100th birthday. The occasion was observed at the home of his son Emil Beine in Yates Center, October 8, 1956.**



The Belne Family Picture. The four standing in rear are, Emil, Tillie, August G. and Fred. Seated is Caroline, with Walter by her, Henry and Lewis, and the father August H. The insert is Clara, the youngest member of the family.

On a hilltop, 3½ miles west of Neosho Falls is a small unkept pioneer cemetery. We were told that the graves there were Indians, we doubted this very much as Indians did not mark their graves in this manner in the early 1860's. Several graves are marked with sandstones, but no names are legible except a large flat tombstone with three names on it. Phoebe Hathaway, 66, his wife (no name), and a daughter Ella, 14 years old who died in 1864. This stone has deteriorated so other information has vanished.

Several Hathaway families were among the first settlers in the Neosho Falls area. One, All Hathaway had a claim of 80 acres less than half mile from this little burying place. Lorenzo Hathaway and Aaron Hathaway had homesteaded land just to the northeast of the Falls.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### WOODSON COUNTY ADVOCATE

Yates Center, Ks., Feb. 21, 1913 —

Dr. Geo. W. Lee, recently of Toronto has decided to locate permanently in this city and this week opened an office for the practice of his profession first door north of the postoffice.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### MARRIED —

Albert Spriggs, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Spriggs of this city, and Miss Pearl Saferite of Neosho Falls were married Feb. 15, at the home of his parents, by W. L. French of the Methodist Church.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thos. C. McCoy of Excelsior Springs, and Miss Florence Tustison, of this city were married Feb. 18 by Probate Judge Woodside.

**PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL QUARTERLY**

Milton & Virginia Schornick  
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand  
John V. Glades Agency  
Street Abstract Co., Inc.  
State Exchange Bank  
Self Service Grocery  
Steiner's Sundries  
Piqua Farmer's Co-op  
Morton Equipment Co.  
Swope & Son Implement Co.  
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.  
The Herring Families  
Cantrell Hay Co.,  
    Craig Cantrell  
Artex Manufacturing Co.  
J. C. & Helene Schnell  
Wilma Mark  
Yates Center News  
Pringle Ranch -  
    J. Richard Rringle  
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy  
Campbell Funeral Home  
Glen & Zola Baker  
Piqua State Bank  
Laurence M. &  
    Alice Catherin Smith

Lynn and Gail Cantrell  
Gaulding Oil Co.  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ward  
Clyde Hill  
Kimbell Ranch-Ed. Kimbell  
Hi-Way Food Basket  
Atkin Clinic  
Blackjack Cattle Co. Inc.  
Ken Kimbell  
Jaspers Shopping Spot  
Daly Western Supply  
Linde Barber Shop  
Campbell Plmg. & Electric  
Ted Spencer-Gen. Agent  
    Woodson Co. Farm Bureau  
Jaynes Insurance Agency  
Glenn Shaw  
C.L. "Matty" & Luriel Mathews  
Milton & Marcella Wrampe  
Loren & Rita Cantrell  
Al's Jewelry  
Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, MO  
Rex Butler, Nashville, TN  
Thomas Wilson  
Bill Herman  
Abbott & Ethel Crandall

